

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR UNGA, YO
SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL TALKS ON DISARMAMENT, KARDELJ VISIT

REF: STATE 031627 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN FIRST HIGH-LEVEL TALKS SINCE CARTER ADMIN-
ISTRATION TOOK OFFICE, PRESIDENCY MEMBER EDVARD KARDELJ AND
FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC SPOKE AT LENGTH WITH U.S. OFFICIALS
ABOUT THE ARMS RACE AND THE NEED FOR DISARMAMENT. KARDELJ
ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE SECRETARY VANCE'S INVITATION TO VISIT
THE UNITED STATES, SUGGESTING THAT TRIP TAKE PLACE IN MAY.
REPORT ON KRSKO NEGOTIATIONS TO FOLLOW SEPARATELY. END SUMMARY

2. IN FIRST CONTACT WE HAVE HAD WITH SENIOR YUGOSLAV
DURING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, TITO'S CLOSEST COLLEAGUE
EXPRESSED TO CHARGE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE
STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION
TO PREVENT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND END THE ARMS RACE.
CITING TITO'S OWN DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES IN 1976, HE SAID
THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S GOALS WERE IDENTICAL WITH OURS. BUT
HE NOTED THAT NON-PROLIFERATION PROBLEM SHOULD BE
TREATED AS A POLITICAL, NOT A TECHNOLOGICAL ONE. THE
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MAJOR DANGER OF A THIRD WORLD WAR COMES NOT FROM
PROLIFERATION BUT FROM RELATIONS AMONG THE SUPER-POWERS.
THE COUNTRIES WHICH LACK NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY MUST BE
PERMITTED TO OBTAIN AND DEVELOP IT FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.
IF THEY ARE
DENIED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY BY THE LONDON CLUB
THEY, INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA, WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY

EFFORTS TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY INDEPENDENTLY, THEREBY COMPLICATING PROBLEMS OF CONTROL. PROLIFERATION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AT A MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE, EITHER THE YUGOSLAV-FATHERED UN SPECIAL SESSION OR SEPARATE CONFERENCE. IN SUCH A FORUM THE COUNTRIES WHICH POSSESS NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND THOSE WHICH DO NOT SHOULD BE EQUALLY REPRESENTED AND AGREE ON MEASURES FOR TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND ITS PEACEFUL USE UNDER SUITABLE CONTROLS. WITH REGARD TO KRSKO, KARDELJ SAID YUGOSLAVIA HAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF BUILDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR SELLING NUCLEAR MATERIAL.

3. FOREIGN SECRETARY RAISED MANY OF SAME POINTS IN 45 MINUTE MEETING WITH US DELEGATION. HE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS INTRODUCING NEW ELEMENTS INTO THE AMERICAN APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT AND THAT THESE ARE DEEPLY IN KEEPING WITH THE WISHES OF THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. BUT HE CAUTIONED THAT AS YUGOSLAVIA HAS FREQUENTLY SAID IN THE PAST NEW MEASURES MUST BE INTRODUCED IN A WAY WHICH DOES NOT SIMPLY PREVENT NEW COUNTRIES FROM ACQUIRING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WHILE THE SUPER-POWERS ARE GIVEN A FREE LICENSE BY THE NPT TO BUILD UP EVER LARGER SUPPLIES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS IS UNTENABLE AND WILL EVENTUALLY UNDERMINE THE NPT ITSELF AND ONLY ENCOURAGE LDC'S TO TAKE INDEPENDENT ROUTE AND THUS LEAD EVENTUALLY TO MORE PROLIFERATION. MINIC REFERRED TO THE SUGGESTION MADE IN OUR TALKS OVER KRSKO THAT PERHAPS A SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND IN THE FORM OF A CONFIDENTIAL

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UNILATERAL STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA REITERATING ITS ALREADY EXISTING COMMITMENTS IN A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS; I.E., NPT, IAEA AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE U.S. AGENCIES. HE NOTED THAT OUR AIDE MEMOIRE HAD AROUSED A "SHARP REACTION" AMONG POLITICAL FIGURES HERE BUT STRESSED HIS COFICTION THAT ALL ELEMENTS EXIST TO SOLVE THE KRSKO PROBLEM IN A WAY AMENABLE TO BOTH SIDES. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA WANTS TO ACHIEVE A HIGH LEVEL OF COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND WOULD NOT LIKE TO GET OF TO A BAD BEGINNING WITH A DISPUTE OVER KRSKO. IN CONCLUDING MINIC LIKE KARDELJ STRESSED ENORMOUS URGENCY OF PROBLEM, WITH DAMAGE TO YUGOSLAV ECONOMY ALREADY TAKING PLACE.

4. DURING KARDELJ MEETING, HE ACCEPTED SECRETARY VANCE'S INVITATION TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT HIS SCHEDULE DID NOT ALLOW A VISIT BEFORE MAY

AND SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY WORK WITH FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ON TIMING AND PROGRAM. KARDELJ SAID THE SUBJECT OF HIS VISIT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED IN THE YUGOSLAV PRESIDENCY AND THAT GOY CONSIDERED THIS AN EXCELLENT TIME FOR A DETAILED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. ARMITAGE EXTENDED GREETINGS FROM SECRETARY VANCE AND GOVERNOR HARRIMAN AND KARDELJ RECIPROCATED. HE SAID HE WAS SORRY THE GOVERNOR HAD BEEN UNABLE TO SEE HIS OLD FRIEND TITO DURING HIS RECENT VISIT AND HE HOPED A MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED WHEN HARRIMAN NEXT VISITS YUGOSLAVIA.

5. KARDELJ SEEMED WEAK, BUT HARDLY MORIBUND. HE WALKED SLOWLY AND WITH A SLIGHT LIMP. HE WAS MENTALLY ALERT AND SPOKE LUCIDLY, BUT HIS VOICE QUAVORED AT TIMES. HE WAS NOT EMACIATED; BOTH HIS FACE AND BELLY WERE FULL. HE DRANK A BEER DURING THE MEETING, WHICH BEGAN AT 10 A.M.

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6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHAT DATES IN MAY EMBASSY SHOULD PROPOSE FOR KARDELJ VISIT. NOTE THAT MAY 25TH TITO'S 85TH BIRTHDAY AND KARDELJ WILL NO DOUBT WISH TO BE PRESENT FOR CEREMONIES.
YORK

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